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PRESS RELEASE

City Gears Up for "Operation Clean Sweep 2007"

Citywide anti-litter campaign to hold first in series of clean-ups this Saturday

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New Bedford, Massachusetts- The City of New Bedford, in cooperation with area businesses, volunteer organizations, neighborhood associations, community groups, schools, and individuals will launch a second year of the citywide effort to clean up New Bedford. "Operation Clean Sweep" is an organized effort to address the issue of litter in our city. The program involves cleanups, educational programs in our schools, and the enforcement of city ordinances.

Mayor Scott W. Lang encouraged the residents of New Bedford to maintain the positive momentum that the 2006 campaign generated by participating in any one or all of the scheduled clean-ups. "Last year over 250 people registered for the first clean up. This year we hope even more residents will volunteer to join our efforts and take pride in our City." In 2006 Operation Clean Sweep volunteers cleaned almost 25,000 pounds of litter from New Bedford streets. "Cleaning our neighborhoods is an important element in making New Bedford a great place to live," said Mayor Lang.

"Operation Clean Sweep" volunteers will tackle Wards 2 and 3 on Saturday, April 21, 2007 from 8:00 AM-noon. Volunteers will enjoy breakfast provided by Honey Dew Donuts and then lunch by The Oaks Nursing Home. Participants are invited to register in advance by calling (508) 979-1493 or by meeting that morning at the corner of Sawyer Street and Acushnet Avenue. The supply of shovels and rakes and other tools are limited so please bring any equipment you have handy.

"Litter and improper disposal of trash are big problems that have been put on the back burner for far too long. We want people to think about how they dispose of their trash and we encourage people to recycle more," said Lynn Coish, Chair of the Operation Clean Sweep Committee. If you are unable to attend this cleanup, the Operation Clean Sweep Committee hopes you will "save the date" for all of the future Saturday cleanups they have planned: April 21st -Wards 2&3; May 19th-Ward 6; June 16th -Ward 3; August 18th-Ward 4; Sept 15th - Ward 1; October 20th -Ward 5. Residents and businesses are encouraged "to clean up their little part of the world" by taking care of their property on a regular basis. For more information visit www.operationcleansweep.info or email operationcleansweepnb@gmail.com.

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